United Nations A/HRC/38/NGO/117

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 June 2018

English only

Human Rights Council
Thirty-eighth session
18 June-6 July 2018
Agenda item 5
Human rights bodies and mechanisms

Written statement* submitted by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[25 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Funding Our United Nations

The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (*Co*NGO) 26th General Assembly meeting in Geneva, 1-3 March, 2018:

- Underlining its strong belief in the principles of the United Nations Charter and the central role the United Nations must play in shaping a more just and equal world,
- Noting the decrease of resources for the functioning of the United Nations in the biennial 2018 to 2019 budget of the United Nations adopted on 24 December, 2017,
- Alarmed over the negative effects of the continuous shrinking of the regular budget of the United Nations,
- Considering that measures to reverse this dangerous development must be of highest priority for Member States and the worldwide civil society,
- Reaffirming that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an unprecedented opportunity for the United Nations, individual governments and civil society worldwide to come together to actively address the range of problems confronting humanity,
- Underlining the vital role the United Nations System can and must play in fostering, managing and coordinating the achievement of the SDGs, engaging and building on the commitment, competence and responsibility of civil society organizations worldwide,
- Stressing the concomitant need for the United Nations System to be adequately resourced—in finance and personnel—to be able to fulfill the multiple tasks that can only be effectively undertaken by this single universal world institution,
- Deploring strongly the constant decreases of UN budgets over several years despite increased workload,
- Underlining that the shrinking of the regular budget resources of the United Nations is the greatest threat to the efficient functioning of the world organisation,
- Further stressing the negative effects of the reduction of resources for public information and the participation of and consultation with non-governmental organisations in the work of the United Nations,
- Calls on governments to publicly commit to adopting a sufficiently increased regular budget for the next budget period, reversing all recent trends to seek economies and reductions at the expense of programmes that require multilateral action,
- Further calls on governments to support and engage fully with the organs and agencies of the United Nations System, recognizing that withdrawal from multilateralism is a self-inflicted wound that opens the door to unilateralism which has often had historically tragic consequences,
- Commends the initiatives by the CoNGO Board, Substantive Committees and Member organisations to alert the public on the UN financial crisis through statements and public meetings,
- Recalls the consensus position adopted by the NGO Millennium Forum in May 2000 that the regular budget of the United Nations could be doubled immediately with good effects, and
- Mandates the CoNGO Board to engage and mobilise in partnership with the worldwide civil society community to strengthen its advocacy with governments and all relevant actors to provide the United Nations System with the resources it so justifiably needs.

Resolution adopted by the 26th General Assembly of *Co*NGO—The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations—held in Geneva, 1-3 March, 2018 CoNGO is an international NGO in General Consultative status with UN ECOSOC.

Issued on behalf of *Co*NGO by:
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25 May 2018

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